

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-20

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-06 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 FEA-01 DRC-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH NEWSPAPER REACTION TO US ECONOMIC MEASURES

1. WHILE THERE WAS LITTLE DUTCH EDITORIAL COMMENT ON PRESIDENT FORD'S OCTOBER 8 SPEECH TO CONGRESS, WHAT THERE WAS WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE, REFLECTING RELIEF THAT NO SEVERELY DEFLATIONARY MEASURES HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED.
2. LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY, CONSERVATIVE ALGEMEN DAGBLAD, CALLED PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM BALANCED, IN CONTRAST TO PLANS OF PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL'S GOVERNMENT.
3. LIBERAL-ORIENTED DE TELEGRAAF SAID FORD IS COURAGEOUS TO RAISE TAXES AND RESTRICT ENERGY CONSUMPTION JUST BEFORE ELECTIONS. "MOST ATTENTION IS PAID TO IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT SITUATION, NOT BY LIMITING INVESTMENTS AS IN NETHERLANDS, BUT BY OFFERING TRADE AND INDUSTRY MORE FACILITIES."
4. PROGRESSIVE CATHOLIC DE VOLKSKRANT NOTED THAT FORD PROGRAM HAS BEEN RECEIVED NEITHER WITH ENTHUSIASM NOR STRONG

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CRITICISM IN US, BUT SAID IT CONTAINS ENOUGH ECONOMIC

INCENTIVES TO PUT DOWN EUROPEAN FEAR OF DEFLATION. DESCRIB-
ING FORD AS STILL NOT CERTAIN HOW FAR HE HAS BEEN ACCEPTED
AS PRESIDENT, PAPER SAYS "FORD OBVIOUSLY PREFERS CALLING FOR
VOLUNTARY SACRIFICES TO PROPOSING STRONG LAWS REFLECTING HIS OWN
OPTIONS."

5. MOST AUTHORITATIVE NEWSPAPER, NRC-HANDELSBLAD, WAS MOST
CRITICAL: "THE POWERFUL POLITICAL LANGUAGE FORD USED....
CANNOT DISGUISE FACT THAT INSTRUMENTS WITH WHICH HE WANTS TO
TACKLE INFLATION DO NOT CONTAIN ANY NEW WEAPONS. NEITHER
DID HE PROPOSE ANY DRASTIC MEASURES. HE ONLY WANTS TO MAKE
MORE ACTIVE USE OF MEANS HIS PREDECESSOR ALSO USED."

6. CONSERVATIVE ECONOMISCH DAGBLAD REFERRED TO MIX OF
RESTRAINT AND STIMULATION IN FIGHT ON INFLATION AS UNORTHODOX.
"EVERYTHING WILL DEPEND ON EXTENT TO WHICH HIGHER TAXES CAN
BE PREVENTED FROM LEADING TO HIGHER PRICES AND WAGES. WITH
THIS RESERVE, FORD'S MEASURES SEEM BALANCED AND ENCOURAGING."
TANGUY

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